Lauren Roelke

Mr. McFadden

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Judaism is a religion that many people misinterpret. They take knowledge from both Christianity and Judaism, and put them together to form a new religion. They believe this to be “Judaism”. Most views come from what they’ve heard from parents, or friends. But in truth, most of the information is false.

In class, we took a look into the history of Judaism. Judaism began around 200 BC when Abraham made a divine covenant with God. Abraham is believed to be the Father of Semitic religions. The Old Testament is called the Tanalen, and the Torah consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The books Joshua through Malachilsaih are called The Nevi’im and the books from Psalms through Chronicles are called The Ketuvim. The Talmud is a collection of stories, laws, and medical knowledge. The Mishinah’s are Hebrew laws and The Gemara is a huge collection of sayings. Jews believe that God exists, is one & unique, is intangible, spiritual, and is eternal. Prayer is said to be directed to God alone and to no other. The words of the prophets are considered true and that Moses was the greatest prophets. Also The Torah was given to Moses, God knows the thoughts and actions of all of mankind, God will reward the good, and punish the bad, the Messiah will come, and the dead will be resurrected. Jews worship in synagogues, which are led by rabbis. The temple is the only place where a sacrifice could take place, but the temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. Jews take place in Kosher Practices, where the blood must be drained from the meat before consumed. Fish, eggs, vegetables and grains can be eaten with either dairy or meat. Utensils that have been in contact with meat cannot be used with dairy products and vice versa; anything that lives in the water and has fins and scales acceptable, which excludes shellfish, rodents, reptiles, amphibians and pork.

Abortion, a rising topic in today’s society is also a part of Judaism. Jews believe that abortion can take place only for serious reasons. The mother must consult with a rabbi before the decision is made. Abortion is only permitted if continuing the pregnancy could risk the life, or health of the mother. Although some Jews see abortion as okay, others see it as a sin against God. Killing a fetus breaks God’s command to populate the world, it destroys something that was created in His image, is destruction of God’s creation, destroys a human life, it is an unjustifiable act of wounding, and it is considered wrong to injure oneself. Some consider aborting a fetus to be wrong against the moral environment, in memory of genocide and infanticide of ancestors, also birth is said to be a precious gift.

Like many American holidays, or days of remembrance, Jews also have some. Tisha B’av is the ninth day of the Jewish month of Av. This day commemorates a series of tragedies that have killed the Jewish people over the years. This includes the destruction of the first temple in 586 BC, the destruction of the second temple in 70 CE and the Holocaust. Tisha B’av is celebrated with prayer and fasting; shaving, cosmetics, and leather are banned. Also people are expected not to laugh, smile or have idle conversation. The kinot is recited, and ornaments in the synagogue are taken down and lights are dimmed.

In conclusion, Judaism is a basically the birth of Christianity. Most are misinformed when it comes to this religion, in terms of holidays, beliefs, and ideology. Judaism is in fact a very historical religion and carries a great deal of historical importance in the world.